

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-14 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 RSR-01

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O 250430 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9165

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4907

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: VISIT OF PRESIDENT THIEU

REF: A. STATE 053321 AND 053895

1. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS POLITICAL DIRECTOR KY TELL US FOREIGN MINISTER LAM HAS SENT INSTRUCTIONS TO AMBASSADOR PHUONG CONCERNING VISIT, INCLUDING GVN WISHES REGARDING COMMUNIQUE, AND THAT PHUONG WILL BE TAKING THESE UP WITH DEPARTMENT. HOWEVER, AFTER CHECKING WITH LAM, HE HAS GIVEN US PRELIMINARY GVN THOUGHTS ON THIS SUBJECT WHICH WE HAVE INCORPORATED IN FOLLOWING DRAFT.

2. " THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM HAVE JUST CONCLUDED TWO DAYS OF DISCUSSIONS ON MAATERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. TAKING PART IN THESE DISCUSSIONS ON THE VIETNAMESE SIDE WERE THE MINISTER OF ECONOMY, THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, THE ACTING MINISTER OF DEFENSE, THE VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON AND OTHER OFFICIALS. THE UNITED STATES WAS ALSO REPRESENTED IN THE DISCUSSION BY ( NAMES OF U. S. OFFICIALS).

3. " THE TWO PRESIDENTS EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE AGREEMENT ON ENDING THE WAR AND RESTORING PEACE IN VIETNAM AND THE INTERNATIONAL ENDORSEMENT SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED IN THE FINAL ACT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM. THEY ASSERTED THE DETERMINATION OF THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS TO  
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IMPLEMENT FAITHFULLY THE PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE OTHER TWO PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT WOULD DO SO AS WELL IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A LASTING PEACE IN VIETNAM. THEY EXPRESSED THEIR GRATITUDE TO THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WHO HAD HELPED TO BRING THIS AGREEMENT ABOUT AND PARTICULARLY TO THE FOUR MEMBER GOVERNMENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON CONTROL AND SUPERVISION WHOSE DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE OBSERVING ITS IMPLEMENTATION. THEY BELIEVE THAT THIS INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION, ACTING IN COOPERATION REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FOUR PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT IS MAKING AN ESSENTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO RESTORATION OF PEACE IN VIETNAM.

4. PRESIDENT NIXON TOLD PRESIDENT THIEU OF HIS GRATIFICATION ON SEEING THAT THE TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES ARE MEETING IN FRANCE IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE AN INTERNAL POLITICAL SETTLEMENT. PRESIDENT THIEU SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS RESOLVED TO SEEK AND ACHIEVE AT THESE MEETING A SETTLEMENT WHICH WILL FULLY ENSURE THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT ON ENDING THE AR, AND HE HOPES FOR FULL COOPERATION FROM THE OTHER SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTY IN THIS ENDEAVOR.

5. BOTH PRESIDENTS, WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THE PROGRESS BEING MADE TOWARD MILITARY AND POLITICAL SETTLEMENTS IN VIETNAM, NEVERTHELESS NOTED THERE WAS CONTINUING INFILTRATION OF MEN AND WEAPONS INTO SOUTH VIETNAM IN VIOLATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON ENDING THE AR, AND THEY EXPRESSED THE EARNEST HOPE THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT DID NOT PRESSAGE AN INTENTION TO DESTROY THE CEASEFIRE AND REOPEN THE WAR. PRESIDENT NIXON STATED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT THE UNITED STATES VIEWED SUCH VIOLATIONS OF THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT WITH GREAT CONCERN.

6. BOTH PRESIDENTS AGREED THAT THERE COULD BE LASTING PEACE IN VIETNAM ONLY IF THERE WERE PEACE IN THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. ACCORDINGLY THEY HOPE THAT THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT REACHED IN LAOS ON FEB 21 WILL BE SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED AND AN END TO THE FIGHTING WILL BE RAPIDLY ACHIEVED IN CAMBODIA, BOTH  
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OF THESE GOALS HAVING BEEN ENVISAGED IN THE AGREEMENT

ON ENDING THE WAR.

7. THE TWO PRESIDENTS ALSO DISCUSSED THE ECONOMIC NEEDS OF VIETNAM AFTER WIDESPREAD DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY THE WAR, PARTICULARLY THE INVASION OF SOUTH VIETNAM WHICH OCCURED IN 1972. PREISDENT THIEU STRESSED THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE NEXT FOUR YEARS FOR SOUTH VIETNAM'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MENTIONING THE NEED FOR MAJOR RELIEF AND RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS IN THE SHORT TERM AND IN THE LONGER TERM THE NEED TO ACHIEVE SELF- SUSTAINING GROWTH AND TO REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON OUTSIDE AID. PRESIDENT NIXON SAID THAT AMERICAN ECONOMIC AID WOULD CONTINUE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROCESSES OF GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES. HE VOICED THE U. S. INTENTION TO ASSIST IN THE RELIEF OF WAR VICTIMS AND TO CARE AND RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES IN THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE AREAS DEVASTATED BY THE WAR, AND IN THE LONG RANGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION NOW THAT THE WAR HAD ENDED.

8. THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ALSO PLEDGED CONTINUED UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM FOR DEFENSE OF ITS TERRITORY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NIXON DOCTRINE. THE PRESIDENT NOTED THAT THE ASSUMPTION BY THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM OF THE FULL MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS FOR ITS OWN DEFENSE OVER THE AST FEW YEARS WAS FULLY IN KEEPING WITH THIS DOCTRINE AND THE UNITED STATES WOULD FOR ITS PART CONTINUE TO SUPPLY THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM WITH MATERIALS MEANS FOR ITS DEFENSE AS AUTHORIZED BY THE AGREEMENT ON ENDING THE WAR."  
BUNKER

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